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MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence

SUBJECT: Study of Soviet Use of Boron

1. In reply to your memorandum of 30 June 1958, you will be interested to know that ORR has scheduled an exploratory research project for fiscal year 1959 on Soviet Guided Missile Propellants and that boron fuels currently have the highest research priority in this category.

2. We have for many months now been interested in the intelligence value of high energy boron fuels and have done preliminary research in this field. Our findings to date include a limited amount of information related to the production of boron materials and some information on trade and we are hopeful that estimates of total availability can be derived from these data. The prospects for establishing end use and distribution patterns, however, do not appear too bright at present. We doubt, therefore, that production estimates of high-energy boron fuels can be derived but we hope, nonetheless, that some useful intelligence might be provided by this study.

3. Completion of the ORR project (No. 22.2330) on missile propellants is scheduled for June 1959 but we may be able to produce a report on boron fuels somewhat earlier. In any event, the responsible analysts in ORR will coordinate their efforts closely with their counterparts in OSI.

OTTO E. GUTHE
Assistant Director
Research and Reports

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